REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,694,544 to Tanigawa et al. (hereinafter Tanigawa).

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,654,032 to Zhu et al. (hereinafter Zhu) in view of Tanigawa.

Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhu in view of Tanigawa in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,513 to Thackston (hereinafter Thackston).

Claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanigawa in view of Zhu.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanigawa in view of Zhu in further view of Thackston.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-19 without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is not addressed herein.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 20-34. Claims 20-34 are supported by the original application. No new matter has been entered.

Claim 20 recites:

> means for maintaining a database including CAD elements defining an object under design;
> means for receiving input commands from a plurality of remote client applications to modify said CAD elements;
> means for automatically updating said database to identify discrete changes to said CAD elements, wherein said discrete changes are maintained chronologically; and
> means for generating a hypertext markup language (HTML) report to enable user access to information related to changes to said CAD elements in a manner that is independent of client applications.

Claim 25 recites:

> maintaining a database including CAD elements defining an object under design at a collaboration server;
> receiving, by said collaboration server, input commands from a plurality of remote client applications to modify said CAD elements;
> automatically updating said database to identify discrete changes to said CAD elements, wherein said discrete changes are maintained chronologically; and
> generating, by said collaboration server, a hypertext markup language (HTML) report to enable user access to information related to changes to said CAD elements in a manner that is independent of client applications.

Claim 30 recites:

> a database including computer-aided design (CAD) elements defining an object under design; and
> a collaboration server application for receiving input commands from a plurality of remote client applications to modify said CAD elements, wherein said collaboration server application identifies discrete changes to said CAD elements, creates a log of said discrete changes in a chronological order, and generates a hypertext markup language (HTML) report to enable user access to information related to changes to said CAD elements in a manner that is independent of client applications.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of these claims. Specifically, Zhu is merely directed to a computer program for remote document sharing. Zhu does not teach or suggest generating a hypertext markup language (HTML) report to enable user access to information related to changes to said CAD elements in a manner that is independent of client applications as recited by claims 20, 25, and 30.

Tanigawa is merely directed to conference support system in which users may communicate "comment data." *See* Abstract of Tanigawa. The comment data is only accessed by the conference support system and does not enable information related to changes to CAD elements to be accessed in a manner that is independent of client applications.

Thackston is directed to a network-based system for the manufacture of parts. The system in Thackston provides a virtual collaborative environment. Based upon designs stored in the collaborative environment, fabricators submit bids for the manufacture of various parts. *See* Abstract of Thackston. However, the system in Thackston does not teach

or suggest generating a hypertext markup language (HTML) report to enable user access to information related to changes to said CAD elements in a manner that is independent of client applications.

Accordingly, claims 20, 25, and 30 are patentable over the cited art. Claims 21-24, 25-29, and 31-34 respectively depend from claims 21, 25, and 30 and, hence, are likewise patentable as depending from an allowable base claim and also in view of novel and nonobvious features and combinations recited therein.
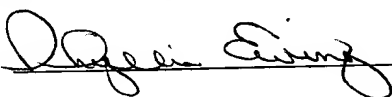
Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee (other than the fees addressed in the transmittal) is due with this response. However, if any other fee or fee amount is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 20001760-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV482746203US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Date of Deposit: December 2, 2004

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7